Call for Papers

2015 Onsite Wastewater Mega-Conference

Uniting for Progress

NOWRA, SORA, VOWRA & NAWT are partnering to hold their respective annual conferences together in the same location. Those who attend will be the winners with a great breath of topics, vendors and educational tours!

Virginia Beach, Virginia
November 4 – 6, 2015

Conference Overview

The National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA), in partnership with the National Association of Wastewater Technicians (NAWT), the State Onsite Regulators Alliance (SORA) and the Virginia Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (VOWRA), welcomes abstracts for papers to be presented at the first ever Onsite Wastewater Mega-Conference in Virginia Beach, VA, November 4 – 6, 2015 at the Virginia Beach Conference Center.

This *Mega Conference* is a joint effort and will serve as the Annual Conference for NOWRA, SORA and VOWRA, and the Annual Treatment Symposium for NAWT. These four organizations share numerous issues including national and local regulations and policies, research, design, installation and maintenance of decentralized systems. The conference will serve as the premier conference for the conveyance of new research, regulations and policy, experience and practices in the decentralized onsite wastewater industry. The conference's exposition hall provides an invaluable opportunity to network and view the current and emerging technologies in decentralized wastewater treatment.

Formats

Abstracts, which will be reviewed by the Education Committee, are required for all presentations. They may be presented in a range of formats: A) Poster, B) 25 or 50 minute presentation with a paper, or C) Forum or panel discussion from 50 minutes to a full day with a brief paper documenting the forum topic.

Potential Topics

A wide range of papers and presentation are encouraged and are open for consideration. Due to the proximity to the Chesapeake Bay topics related to this area will be a focus of the conference.

Below is a suggested list of topics of interest for this conference in the three categories:

1. **Technical**
   a. System installation techniques from the septic tank to the dispersal area and everything in between
   b. Linkages between storm water and decentralized system design
   c. Water and waste constituents of concern such as pharmaceuticals and personal care products
   d. Treatment processes: process level understanding of commonly used wastewater treatment components
   e. Modeling the fate of wastewater constituents: treatment processes and soil environments
   f. Innovative products, technologies, and solutions for wastewater treatment
   g. Nitrogen related research and case studies
   h. Cluster system design and management
   i. Reuse case studies and research
   j. System performance evaluation
   k. Soil and site evaluation research and evaluation tools
   l. Septage treatment facilities unit processes, engineering, innovative technologies, exceptional quality sludge

2. **Policy**
   a. Data and technology reciprocity
   b. Comprehensive wastewater planning, policy and case studies
   c. Risk assessment
   d. Standards, regulations and policy
   e. Compliance and enforcement
   f. Cluster systems
   g. Performance standards
   h. Reuse of storm water, rain water, grey water, water reuse, and decentralized onsite systems
   i. Septage treatment facility economics and regulations
   j. Education, training and certification

3. **Management/Maintenance**
   a. Comprehensive management, finance, policy
   b. Management entity sustainability
   c. Management strategies supporting performance
   d. Tools and technologies to assist with management
   e. Management and maintenance related case studies
   f. Extreme weather maintenance issues

Questions?

→ About the applicability of topics for the conference should be discussed with Education Committee Chair, Sara Heger by email at sheger@umn.edu.

→ About the conference in general should be sent to NOWRA's Executive Director, Eric Casey by email at wecasey@nowra.org.

Presenters are responsible for covering their own registration and travel expenses to attend the conference.

Abstract and Paper Deadlines

1. <u>May 1, 2015</u>: Abstracts submittals are due. Abstracts should be emailed Sara Heger via email: sheger@umn.edu. Confirmation of abstracts submission will be sent via email within one week of the abstract being received.
2. <u>May 20, 2015</u>: Individuals will be notified of the Education Committee's selection and provided with instructions regarding paper criteria and format.
3. <u>September 1, 2015</u>: Draft papers due.   Emailed to sheger@umn.edu for review and comment by the education and technical practices committee.
4. <u>September 29, 2015</u>: Comments and/or edited papers returned to the author. If re-review is required they will be due on <u>October 9th, 2015.</u>
5. <u>October 19th, 2015</u>: Final papers must be submitted in electronic format to be included in the proceedings and conference must be emailed to sheger@umn.edu. If the paper is not received by this date the topic and speaker will be removed from the agenda.

Abstract Submittal Requirements

The following information is needed to submit your paper:

1. Abstract Type: A) Technical, B) Policy C) Management
2. Abstract Topic: Please indicate the topic or topics of your submittal (see page 2)
3. Format for presentation: 1) Poster, 2) 25 minute presentation 3) 50 minute presentations 4) Forum or panel discussions from 50 minutes to a full day
4. Title of Paper/Session
5. Abstract : 200-300 word description of the proposed paper and presentation
6. Name of Lead Author, Presenter or Session Organizer including Affiliation and Email
7. A short biography of Lead Presenter in <u>paragraph form</u> that includes educational degrees and description of experience as it relates to the decentralized onsite industry (for obtaining CEUs).

> **Don't forget - a paper is due by September 1st for ALL accepted abstracts to be reviewed by the Education Committee and the final paper is due on October 19th**

We look forward to a great conference in Virginia Beach!